

Message Text

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ACTION USIA-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 L-03 CU-05 CPR-02 DRC-01 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3588

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BG

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC STATUS OF USIS CENTERS

REF: STATE 137628; DACCA 2774

1. NEW CIRCULAR NOTE ON FILM CENSOR-SHIP CONSEQUENCE OF LARGE FLAP CAUSED BY INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION CONDUCTING INDIAN FILM WEEK IN CONJUNCTION WITH ONE OF DACCA'S MANY FILM SOCIETIES. FILM SOCIETY USED GIMMICK OF IMPORTED FEATURE FILMS AT PUBLIC THEATRES AS FUND-RAISING DEVICE; TICKETS COMPLETELY SOLD OUT AND LATER SCALPED; SEVERAL DISTURBANCES CAUSED BY CRUSH OF PEOPLE TRYING BUY TICKETS OR ENTER THEATRES TO VIEW HINDI FILMS. RIVAL FILM SOCIETIES, LOCAL FILM DISTRIBUTORS AND PRODUCERS COMPLAINED TO BDG WITH NEW CIRCULAR NOTE LHPULT.

2. SOVIETS SEE NO PROBLEMS; T WY VIEW SOVIET HOUSE OF CULTURE AS EXTENSION OF USSR EMBASSY; HAVE NO OFF-PREMISES SHOWINGS.

3. NEW PROCEDURES CAUSE PROBLEM FOR BRITISH, FRZCCH AND WEST GTI-MANS ALL WITH CULTURAL CENTERS NOT RPT NOT CONSIDERED AS EXTENSIONS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. PRIOR HG CIRCULAR NOTE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION HAD STARTED NEGOTIATING AGREEMENT WITH BDG TO HAVE BRITISH COUNCIL CONSIDERED A PART OF THE HIGH COMMISSION.

IN RECENT MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF USIS AND THREE ABOVE FRIENDLY MISSIONS IN WHICH OUR POSITION OUTLINED, THREE OTHER

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MS DECIDED TO CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF TRIPARTITE APPROACH
NO BDG.

4. FYI: BRITISH INFORMATION SERVICE HAS BEEN SUBMITTING NEW DOCUMENTARIES TO FILM CENSORSHIP BOARD TOGETHER WITH SYNOPSIS AND FCB APPLICATION 4.. USUALLY RECEIVE PERMISSION SCREEN PRINT WITHIN THREE TO FOUR DAYS ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE YET TO RECEIVE CENSORSHIP CERTIFICATE IN OVER 18 MONTHS. HAVE RECEIVED ONLY ONE REQUEST FOR DELETION OF ANY FILM'S FOOTAGE--SHORT ON LEATHER WORKING SHOWING STUDENTS FROM PAKISTAN.

5. SEE NO PROBLEM IN SUBMITTING OUR PERMANENT ACQUISITIONS TO FCB AS DO BRITISH, ENABLING US TO CONTINUE EXTENSION PROGRAMMING UNDER ESSENTIALLY SAME RULES FOLLOWED DURING PAKISTAN ADMINISTRATION. BELIEVE IN VIEW RATIONALE FOR NEW REGULATIONS THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM FOR SHOWINGS AT CENTER IN DACCA AND PROBABLY NOT CHITTAGONG EITHER. HOWEVER, IFMDG WANTS TO GET STICKY THEY WOULD REFUSE TO CONSIDER CHITTAGONG AS EXTENSION EMBASSY DACCA PARTICULARLY SINCE NO AMERICAN CONSULATE THERE.
BOSTER

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